N
IV
P
16

N.Y.P.
16

38789/A

Sig c1 watermarked 1809

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2015

https://archive.org/details/b22016892

5 9132

Past, Present, and to Come

THE

Prophecy at Large,

OF

ROBERT NIXON,

THE

CHESHIRE PROPHET;

From Lady COWPER's correct Copy in the Reign of Queen ANNE.

ALSO SOME

PARTICULARS OF HIS LIFE.

LIKEWISE

MOTHER SHIPTON'S

Yorkshire Prophecy,

WITH

THEIR EXPLANATIONS:

Lately discovered among other valuable MSS.

Preserved in the noble Family of the P—s's for many Years.

London:

Printed by W. GLINDON, Rupert-street, Hay-market.

Published by D. M'DONALD, CROWN-COURT, Princes-street, Soho.
And sold by all other Booksellers in the United Kingdoms.

PRICE SIX-PENCE.

WELLCOME
HISTORICAL
MEDICAL
LIBRARY

THE

LIFE OF ROBERT NIXON,

COMMONLY CALLED

The Cheshire Prophet.

THE PROPHECY of NIXON has so often given a name to the productions of authors of different principles, that it is now almost become a doubt whether such a person ever existed. Passing through Cheshire lately, curiosity led me to enquire what credit these legends bore amongst the natives; and I was not a little surprised to find with what confidence they related events which have come to pass within the memory of many of the inhabitants; and how strictly they adhered to the notion, that he would not fail in the rest. Amongst this number was a namesake and descendant of the same family with this famous idiot, who, at this time, lives not far from Vale-Royal, from whom I had mostly what follows, which he said he had often heard his father and other ancient people in the country relate. I also obtained a manuscript copy, which seemed to bear the appearance of antiquity.—— Mr. Gerrard, Mr. Grimes, and many others of the inhabitants of the forest of Delamere, very obligingly told me what they knew, and confirmed what was past.

JOHN or JONATHAN NIXON, the father of our prophet, was an huſbandman, who held the leaſe of a farm from the abbey of Vale-Royal, to this day known by the name of Bark or Bridge-houſe, in the Pariſh of Over near New-Church, and not far from Vale-Royal, on the foreſt of Delamere, which houſe is ſtill kept up and venerated by the natives of Cheſhire, for nothing elſe, that I could hear of, but this extraordinary perſon's birth, which took place on Whitſuntide, and he was chriſtened by the name of Robert, in the year 1467, about the 7th year of Edward IV.; and from his infancy he was remarkable for a ſtupidity and invincible ignorance, ſo that it was with great difficulty his parents could inſtruct him to drive the team, tend the cattle, and ſuch ſort of ruſtic employments.

His parents, at their deceaſe, left the farm and our Robert very young, to the care of an elder brother, with whom he firſt gave an inſtance of that fore-knowledge, which renders his name ſo famous.

As he was driving the team one day, whilſt his brother's man guided the plough, he pricked an ox ſo very cruelly with his goad, that the plough-holder threatened to acquaint his maſter; on which Nixon ſaid, the ox ſhould not be his brother's three days hence; which accordingly happened, for a life dropping in the eſtate, the lord of the manor took the ſame ox for an heriot. *

During his reſidence here, he was chiefly diſtinguiſhed for his ſimplicity, ſeldom ſpoke, and when he did, it was with ſo rough a voice that it was painful to hear him; he was remarkably ſatirical, and what he ſaid had generally ſome prophetic meaning. It was about this time, that the monk of Vale-Royal, having diſpleaſed him, he ſaid, in angry tone,

When you the Harrow come on high,
Soon a raven's neſt will be;

* Or an acknowledgment, which by the tenure of ſome eſtates, is given to every new lord of a manor.

which is well known to have come to paſs in the person of the laſt abbot of that place, whoſe name was Harrow. Being called before Sir Thomas Holcroft, he was put to death for denying the ſupremacy of King Henry VIII. Having ſuppreſſed the abbey, the King gave the domain to this knight and his heirs, who bore a raven for their creſt.

At another time he told them that Norton and Vale-Royal abbies ſhould meet on Acton-bridge, a thing at that time looked upon as improbable; yet thoſe two abbies being pulled down, the ſtones were uſed for the purpoſe of repairing the bridge; and, what was more improbable ſtill, a ſmall thorn, growing in the abbey-yard, would become its door. We may eaſily gueſs, no one thought this laſt would ever come to paſs, and eſpecially as it was underſtood by every one, at that time of day, that thorns never grew ſo large; but this ſhews the uncertain meaning of a prophecy, and that what we underſtand one way, is poſſibly meant quite different; ſo it happened in this caſe, for, at the Reformation, the ſavage ravagers, under the ſanction of religion, ſought nothing but rapine and plunder to enrich themſelves, and under the name of baniſhing ſuperſtition and pulling down idolatry, ſpared not even the moſt revered lineaments of antiquity, the moſt ſacred piles, the moſt noble ſtructures, or moſt valuable records, books written by our moſt venerable forefathers and heroic anceſtors. Pieces of the niceſt paint, and figures of the beſt workmanſhhip, being all loſt, irrecoverably loſt, in one common fit of deſtructive zeal, which every hue and cry is too apt to raiſe in the breaſt of a hot-headed bigot; whilſt the truly religious honeſt, and learned men regret, to this day, the loſs of thoſe deſtructive times has occaſioned. Whilſt theſe reached Vale-Royal, this thorn, amongſt the reſt, being cut-down, was caſt in the door-way, to prevent ſheep, which grazed in the court, from going in.

But th[illegible] ſo[illegible]

A time ſhall come when prieſts and monks
Shall have no churches nor houſes,
And places where images ſtood,
Lined letters ſhall be good,
Engliſh books through churches are ſpread,
There ſhall be no holy bread.

It is not my intention to recite every particular he is ſaid to have foretold, which regard either private families or paſt occaſions—however, it may not be amiſs to mention what is freſh in every one's memory, who lives near Delamere foreſt, and was vouched to me by ſeveral of the oldeſt inhabitants:

Through Weaver-hall ſhall be a lone, *
Ridley-pool ſhall be ſown and mown,
And Darnel-park ſhall be hacked and hewn.

The two wings of Weaver hall are now ſtanding, and between them is a cart road; Ridley-pool is filled up, and made good meadow land; and in Darnel-park the trees are cut down, and it is made into paſture ground.

I was alſo aſſured, that he foretold the uſe of broad wheels, &c. and that the town of Norwich, now a conſiderable place of trade for ſalt, will be deſtroyed by water, which is expected to come to paſs, by the natives of Cheſhire, as much as any other part of his prophecy has done; and ſome urge, that the navigable cuts lately made is the water meant; but whether a prejudice againſt thoſe uſeful improvements may not have given riſe to this notion, time only can determine.

But what rendered Nixon the moſt noticed was, that at the time when the battle of Boſworth field was fought between King Richard the Third and King Henry the Seventh, he ſtopped his team on a ſudden, and pointing with his whip from one hand to the other,

* The term used in this country for a lane.

cried, "Now Richard! Now Harry!" ſeveral times; till at laſt, he ſaid, "Now Harry, get over that ditch, and you gain the day." The ploughholder, amazed, related what had paſſed when he came home, and the truth of the prediction was verified by ſpecial meſſengers, ſent to announce the proclamation of King Henry of England on the field of battle.

The meſſenger, who went this circuit, related on his return, the prediction of Nixon, concerning the King's ſucceſs; which, though it had been confirmed by his arrival, had made it no news to the natives of thoſe parts; but Henry, perhaps the wiſeſt prince of his time, not willing to be deceived, nor yet doubting the diſpenſations of Providence, though by the mouth of a fool, ſent the ſame meſſenger back to find Nixon, and to bring him before him. At the moment the King gave his orders, our prophet was in the town of Over, about which he ran like a madman, declaring the King had ſent for him, and that he muſt go to court, and there be *clammed*; that is, be ſtarved to death. Such a declaration occaſioned a great deal of laughing in the town, to think that his Majeſty, ſo noted for his wiſdom, ſhould ſend for a dirty drivelling clown to court, and that, being ſent for, he ſhould fear to be ſtarved there. But how great was their ſurpriſe, in a few days after, when the meſſenger, paſſing through the town, demanded a guide to find Nixon, who (then turning the ſpit at his brother's, at the Bark-houſe) cried, "He is coming, he is now on the road for me;" but the aſtoniſhment of the family can ſcarcely be imagined, when, on the meſſenger's arrival, he demanded Nixon in the King's name. The people, who before ſcoffed at his ſimple appearance and odd ſayings, and had pointed to their very children to make him their ſport, were now confounded, on finding the moſt ridiculous of all he ever foretold (in their opinion) become a truth, which was vouched to their own eyes. Whilſt hurried through the

country, Nixon ſtill loudly lamented, that he was going to be ſtarved at court.

He had no ſooner arrived there, than the cautious King, willing to make trial of his foreknowledge, deviſed the following ſcheme to prove it. Having hid a valuable diamond ring, which he commonly wore, after the moſt ſeemingly ſtrict enquiry, made through the palace, whether any one had ſeen it, he ſent for Nixon, telling him what a loſs he had ſuſtained, and that, if he could not help him to find it, he had no hopes left. But how much ſurpriſed was the King, when he got for an anſwer that old proverb,

He who hideth can find:

On which he declared with a ſmile, that he had done this only to try the prophet; but ever after ordered that what he ſaid ſhould be carefully put in writing.

To prevent Nixon's being ſtarved, his Majeſty gave orders for him to have the liberty to range through the whole palace, and the kitchen was to be his more conſtant dwelling. Beſides which, an officer was appointed to take care that he was neither miſuſed or affronted by the ſervants, nor at a loſs for any neceſſary of life. Thus ſituated, one would have thought want could never have reached him; yet, one day, as the King was going out to his hunting-ſeat, Nixon ran to him crying, and begged, in the moſt moving terms, that he might not be left, for that if he was, his Majeſty would never ſee him again alive; that he ſhould be ſtarved; that now was the time, and if he was left he muſt die.

The King, whoſe thoughts were doubtleſs fixed on the diverſion he was going to, and ſuppoſing the matter ſo very unlikely to come to paſs, only ſaid that it was impoſſible, and recommended him ſtrongly to the officer's care; but ſcarcely was the King gone from the palace-gate, when the ſervants

mocked and teazed Nixon to ſuch a degree, that the officer, to prevent theſe inſults, locked him up in a cloſet, and ſuffered no one but himſelf to attend on him, thinking that he ſhould prevent this part of his prophecy from coming true. But a meſſage of great importance coming from the King to this very officer, he, in his readineſs to obey the royal command, forgot to ſet poor Nixon at liberty, and though he was but three days abſent, when he recollected his priſoner, he found him at his return dead, as he had foretold, of hunger.

Thus evidenced, with what is paſt, ſtands his prophecy in every mouth in Cheſhire; yet a greater affront cannot be given than to aſk a copy from the families ſaid to be poſſeſſed of it. Every poſſible means, it is well known, has been uſed to ſmother the truth, perplex the curious, and even to aboliſh the very remembrance that ſuch a one ever exiſted, but from what reaſon cannot appear, except that it is foretold that the heir of O— is to meet with ſome ignominious death, at his own gate,* with other family events, which though no person or time being perfectly diſtinguiſhed, may perhaps occaſion this ſecrecy.

I muſt alſo obſerve, that the croſs on Delamere foreſt, that is, three ſteps and the ſocket in which the croſs formerly ſtood, are now ſunk within a few inches of the ground, though all remember to have ſeen it, within the memory of man, nearly ſix feet above, the croſs itſelf having been deſtroyed long ſince. It is alſo remarkable, that Headleſs croſs is mentioned by Merlin de Rymer, and moſt other Engliſh and Scotch prophets, as the laſt place in England on which it is ſuppoſed a deciſive action will happen; but as to any fixed period, when the things will come to paſs, I cannot learn, being all mentioned with the greateſt uncertainty.

* A few years ago, (since the above was written) Mr E——, of O——, was killed by a fall from his horse, at his own gate as he was returning from hunting.

The original Predictions

OF

ROBERT NIXON,

As delivered by himself.

WHEN a raven ſhall build in a ſtone lion's mouth,
On a church top beſide the grey foreſt,
Then ſhall a King of England be drove frem hi
crown,
And return no more.

When an eagle ſhall ſit on the top of Vale-Roya
houſe,
Then ſhall an heir be born, who ſhall live to ſee grea
troubles in England.

There ſhall be a miller named Peter,
With two heels on one foot,
Who ſhall diſtinguiſh himſelf bravely,
And ſhall be knighted by the victor:
For foreign nations ſhall invade England;
But the invader ſhall be killed,
And laid acroſs a horſe's back,
And led in triumph.

A boy ſhall be born with three thumbs on one hand,
Who ſhall hold three Kings' horſes,
Whilſt England is three times won and loſt in one da

But after this ſhall be happy days,
A new ſet of people of virtuous manners ſhall live in peace.
But the wall of Vale-royal near the pond ſhall be the token of its truth,
For it ſhall fall:
If it fall downwards,
Then ſhall the church be ſunk for ever:
But if it fall upwards againſt a hill,
Then ſhall the church and honeſt men live ſtill.
Under this wall ſhall be found the bones of a Britiſh King.

eckforton mill ſhall be removed to Ludington-hill,
nd three days blood ſhall turn Noginſhire mill.

ut beware of a chance to the lord of Oulton,
Leſt he ſhould be hanged at his own door.

crow ſhall ſit on the top of Headleſs croſs,
In the foreſt ſo grey,
nd drink of the nobles gentle blood ſo free,
wenty hundred horſes ſhall want maſters,
ill their girths rot under their bellies.

hro' our own money and our own men,
Shall a dreadful war begin;
etween the ſickle and the ſuck,
ll England ſhall have a pluck;
nd he ſeveral times forſworn,
nd put to their wits end,
hat it ſhall not be known whether to reap their corn, ury their dead, or go to the field to fight.

A great ſcarcity of bread corn.

oreign nations ſhall invade England with ſnow on their helmets,
nd ſhall bring plague, famine, and murder, in the ſkirts of their garments.

A great tax will be granted but never gathered.

Between a rick and two trees,
A famous battle fought ſhall be.

London ſtreet ſhall run with blood,
And at laſt ſhall ſink,
So that it ſhall be fulfilled,
Lincoln was, London is, and York ſhall be
The fineſt city of the three.

There will be three gates to London of impriſoned men for cowſters.
Then if you have three cows, at the firſt gate ſell one, and keep thee at home.
At the ſecond gate ſell the other two, and keep thee at home.
At the laſt gate all ſhall be done.
When ſummer and winter ſhall come,
And peace is made at every man's home,
Then ſhall be danger of war;
For tho' with peace at night the nation ring,
Men ſhall riſe to war in the morning.

There will be a winter Council, a careful Chriſtmas, and a bloody Lent.

In thoſe days there ſhall be hatred and bloodſhed,
The father againſt the ſon, and the ſon againſt his father,
That one may have a houſe for lifting the latch of the door.
Landlords ſhall ſtand, with hats in ther hands,
To deſire tenants to hold their lands.

Great wars and preſſing of ſoldiers,
But at laſt clubs and clouted ſhoes ſhall carry the day.

It will be good in theſe days for a man to ſell his goods, and keep cloſe at home.
Then forty pounds in hand
Will be better than forty pounds a year in land.

The cock of the North ſhall be made to flee,
And his feathers be plucked for his pride;
That he ſhall almoſt curſe the day that he was born.

One aſked Nixon, where he might be ſafe in thoſe days?
He anſwered,
In God's croft, between the rivers Merſey and Dee.

Scotland ſhall ſtand more or leſs,
Till it has brought England to a piteous caſe.
The Scots ſhall rule England one whole year.

Three years of great wars,
And in all countries great uproars.

The firſt is terrible, the ſecond worſe, but the third unbearable.

Three great battles;
One at Northumberland-bridge,
One at Cumberland-bridge,
And the other the South ſide of Trent.

Crows ſhall drink the blood of many nobles.
Eaſt ſhall riſe againſt Weſt, and North againſt South.

Then take this for good,
Noginſhire mill ſhall run with blood,
And many ſhall fly down Wanflow-lane.

A man ſhall come into England,
But the ſon of a King crown'd with thorns
Shall take from him the victory.

Many nobles ſhall fight
But a baſtard Duke ſhall win the day,
And ſo without delay,
Set England in a right way.

A wolf from the Eaſt ſhall right eagerly come,
On the South ſide of Sandford, on a grey Monday morn,
Where groves ſhall grow upon a green,
Beſide green grey they ſhall flee
Into rocks, and many die.

They ſhall flee into Salt-Strand,
And twenty thouſand, without ſword, ſhall die each man.

The dark dragon over Sudſbrown,
Shall bring with him a royal band:
But their lives ſhall be forlorn.
His head ſhall be in Stafford town,
His tail in Ireland.

He boldly ſhall bring his men, thinking to win renown:
Beſide a wall in foreſt fair he ſhall be beaten down.

On Hine's heath they ſhall begin this bloody fight,
And with train'd ſteed ſhall hew each others' helmet bright:
But who ſhall win that day no one can tell.
A Duke out of Denmark ſhall him dight,
On a day in England, and make many a lord full low to light,
And the ladies cry, 'Well away,'
And the black fleet with main and might
Their enemies full boldly there aſſail.

In Britain's land ſhall be a knight,
On them ſhall make a cruel fight,
A bitter boar with main and might
Shall bring a royal rout that day.
There ſhall die many a worthy knight,
And be driven into the fields green and grey,
They ſhall loſe both field and fight.

The weary eagle ſhall to an iſland in the ſea retire,
Where leaves and herbs grow freſh and green.
There ſhall he meet a lady fair,
Who ſhall ſay, 'Go help thy friend in battle ſlain:'
Then by the counſel of that fair,
He eagerly will make to flee
Twenty-ſix ſtandard of the enemy.
A rampant lion in ſilver ſet, in armour fair,
ſhall help the eagle in that tide,
When many a knight ſhall die.

The bear that hath been long tied to a ſtake ſhall ſhake
his chains,
That every man ſhall hear, and ſhall cauſe much de-
bate.

The bull and the red roſe ſhall ſtand in ſtrife,
That ſhall turn England to much woe,
And cauſe many a man to loſe his life.
In a foreſt ſtand oaks three,
Beſide a headleſs croſs.
A well of blood ſhall run and ree,
Its cover ſhall be braſs,
Which ſhall ne'er appear,
Till horſes' feet have trod it bare:
Who wins it will declare.
The eagle ſhall ſo fight that day,
That n'er a friend's from him away.
A hound without delay ſhall run the chace far and
near.
The dark dragon ſhall die in fight.
A lofty head the bear ſhall rear,
The wide wolf ſo ſhall light.
The bridled ſteed againſt his enemies will fiercely
fight.

A fleet ſhall come out of the North,
Riding on a horſe of trees.
A white hind beareth he,
And there wreaths ſo free,
That day the eagle ſhall him ſlay,
And on a hill ſet his banner ſtraightway.
That lion who's forſaken been and forced to flee,
Shall hear a woman ſhrilly ſay,
'Thy friends are killed on yonder hill,'
Death to many a knight this day.
With that the lion bears his banner to a hill,
Within a foreſt that's ſo plain,
Beſide a headleſs croſs of ſtone,
There ſhall the eagle die that day,
And the red lion get renown.

A great battle ſhall be fought by crowned Kings three;
One ſhall die, and a baſtard Duke will win the day.
In Sandyford there lies a ſtone,
A crowned King ſhall loſe his head on.

In thoſe dreadful days, five wicked prieſts' heads ſhall
be ſold for a penny.

Slaughter ſhall rage to ſuch a degree,
And infants left by thoſe that are ſlain,
That damſels ſhall with fear and gloe,
Cry, 'Mother, mother, here's a man!'

Between ſeven, eight, and nine,
In England wonders ſhall be ſeen.
Between nine and thirteen
All ſorrow ſhall be done.
Then riſe up Richard, ſon of Richard,
And bleſs the happy reign,
Thrice happy he who ſees this time to come,
When England ſhall know reſt and peace again.

End of the Original Prophecies.

THE FOLLOWING

Predictions of Robert Nixon.

From an Original Copy.

THE famous Cheſhire prophet, NIXON, beſides his Prophecies relative to the fate of private families, alſo predicted much of public affairs, which we find literally verified by the ſequel.

On the Chriſtmas before he went to court, being among the ſervants at Mr. Cholmondeley's houſe, to the ſurpriſe of them all, he ſuddenly ſtarted up, and ſaid,

"I muſt prophecy." He went on, "If the favourite * of a King ſhall be ſlain, the maſter's neck ſhall be cleft in twain. And the men of the North † ſhall ſell precious blood; yea, their own blood. And they ſhall ſacrifice a noble warrior ‡ to the idol, and hang up his fleſh in the high places. And a ſtorm ſhall come out of the North, which ſhall blow down the ſteeples of the South: and the labourer ſhall riſe above his lord, and the harveſt ſhall in part be trampled down by horſes, and the remainder lie waſte, to be devoured by birds.

"When *an oak tree* ſhall be ſofter than mens' hearts, then look for better times, but they be but beginning.

"The departure of a great man's ‖ ſoul ſhall trouble a river hard by, and overthrow trees, houſes, and eſtates. From that part of the houſe from whence the miſchief came, you muſt look for the cure. Firſt comes joy, then ſorrow. After mirth comes mourning.

"I ſee men, women, and children, ſpotted § like beaſts, and their neareſt and deareſt friends affrighted at them. I ſee towns on fire, and innocent blood ſhed; but when men and horſes walk upon the water, then ſhall come peace and plenty to the people, but trouble is preparing for Kings: and the *great yellow fruit* * ſhall come over to this country, and flouriſh: and I ſee this tree take deep root, and ſpread into a thouſand branches, which ſhall afterwards be at ſtrife one with another, becauſe of their

* The Duke of Buckingham (favourite of James, and Charles I. who was beheaded) aſſaſſinated by J. Felton.

† The Scots, who ſold their King, Charles I. for a large ſum of money, to the Engliſh rebels.

‡ Suppoſe the Marquis of Montroſe.

‖ Suppoſe Oliver Cromwell, at whoſe death the greateſt ſtorm of wind happened that had been known in England.

§ The plague and fire of London was here plainly foretold.

* The Great Yellow Fruit, ſuppoſe the Prince of Orange, King William III.

numbers: and there ſhall come a wind from the South, and the Weſt, which ſhall ſhake the tree. I ſee multitudes of people running to and fro, and talking in a ſtrange tongue. And there ſhall be a famine † in the midſt of great plenty, and earthquakes and ſtorms ſhall level and purify the earth."

After theſe ſayings, which every one, with the ſlighteſt knowledge of our hiſtory, will inſtantly apply to thoſe events which they ſo wonderfully foretold, Nixon was ſilent, and relapſed into his wonted ſtupidity, from which he did not recover until many weeks after, when he became again inſpired, and gave vent to thoſe remarkable predictions, which were collected by Mr. Oldmixon. Thoſe which we have juſt now related, were taken down from the prophet's mouth by the ſteward, in purſuance of the orders of Mr. Cholmondeley himſelf; and the original manuſcript is now in the hands of a gentleman in Shropſhire.

NIXON's

Cheshire Prophecy at large,

FROM

LADY COWPER's COPY;

With Hiſtorical and Political REMARKS, and many Inſtances wherein it has been fulfilled.

INTRODUCTION.

THIS remarkable Prophecy has been carefully reviſed, corrected, and improved; alſo ſome account

† This was said, in the book from whence these Predictions were extracted, to mean oppression of the poor.

given of our author, Robert Nixon, who was but a kind of idiot, and uſed to be employed in following the plough. He had lived in ſome farmers' families, and was their drudge and their jeſt.

At laſt, Thomas Cholmondeley, of Vale-Royal, Eſq. took him into his houſe, where he lived when he compoſed this prophecy, which he delivered with as much gravity and ſolemnity as if he had been an oracle; and it was obſerved, that though the fool was a driveller, and could not ſpeak common ſenſe when he was uninſpired, yet in delivering his prophecies, he ſpoke plainly and ſenſible, how truly will be ſeen in the following pages.

As to the credit of this prophecy, I dare ſay it is as well atteſted as any of Noſtradamus's or Merlin's, and will come to paſs as well as the beſt of Squire Bickerſtaff's: it is plain enough, that great men in all ages, had recourſe to prophecy, as well as the vulgar. I would not have all grave perſons deſpiſe the inſpiration of Nixon. The late French King gave audience to an inſpired farrier, and rewarded him with a hundred piſtoles for his prophetical intelligence; though, by what I can learn, he did not come near our Nixon for gifts.

The ſimplicity, the circumſtances, and the hiſtory of the Cheſhire Prophecy are ſo remarkable, that I hope the Public will be as much delighted as I was myſelf.

By the way, this is not a prophecy of to day; 'tis as old as the powder-plot, and the ſtory will make it appear, that there is as little impoſture in it as the Jacobites pretend there is in the perſon it ſeems to have an eye to: but whether they are both impoſters alike, or not, I leave the reader to determine.

J. Oldmixon.

THE PROPHECY.

IN the reign of King James the Firſt, there lived a man generally reputed a fool, whoſe name

was Nixon. One day, when he returned home from ploughing, he laid the things down which he had in his hands, and continuing for ſome time in a ſeemingly deep and thoughtful meditation, at length he pronounced, in a loud hoarſe voice, "Now I will prophecy;" and ſpoke as follows:

"When a raven ſhall build in a ſtone lion's mouth, on the top of a church in Cheſhire, then a King of England ſhall be driven out of his kingdom, and never return more.

"When an eagle ſhall ſit on the top of the houſe, then an heir ſhall be born to the Cholmondeley family; and this heir ſhall live to ſee England invaded by foreigners, who ſhall proceed as far as a town in Cheſhire; but a miller, named Peter, ſhall be born with two heels on one foot, and at that time living in a mill of Mr. Cholmondeley's; he ſhall be inſtrumental in delivering the nation.

"The perſon who then governs the nation will be in great trouble, and ſkulk about. The invading King ſhall be killed, laid acroſs a horſe's back like a calf, and led in triumph. The miller having been inſtrumental in it, ſhall bring forth the perſon that then governs the kingdom, and be knighted for what he has done; and after that England ſhall ſee happy days. A young new ſet of men, of virtuous manners, ſhall come, who ſhall proſper, and make a flouriſhing church for two hundred years.

"As a token of the truth of all this, a wall of Mr. Cholmondeley's ſhall fall. If it fall downwards, the church ſhall be oppreſſed, and riſe no more; but if upwards, next the riſing hill on the ſide of it, then ſhall it flouriſh again. Under this wall ſhall be found the bones of a Britiſh King.

"A pond ſhall run with blood three days, and the Croſs ſtone Pillar in the Foreſt ſink ſo low into the ground, that a crow from the top of it ſhall drink of the beſt blood in England.

"A boy ſhall be born with three thumbs, and

ſhall hold three kings' horſes, while England ſhall be three times won and loſt in one day."

The original may be ſeen in ſeveral families in that county, and in particular in the hands of Mr. Egerton, of Oulton, with many other remarkables; as, that Peckforton windmill ſhould be removed to Ludington hill, and that horſes ſaddled ſhould run about till their girths rotted away. But this is ſufficient to prove Nixon as great a prophet as Partridge: and we ſhall give other proofs of it before we have done with him.

I know your prophets are generally for Raw-head and Bloody-bones, and therefore do not mind it much; or I might add, that Oulton mill ſhall be driven with blood inſtead of water; but theſe ſooth ſayers are great butchers, and every hall as with them a ſlaughter houſe.

Now as for authorities to prove this prophecy to be genuine, and how it has hitherto been accompliſhed, I might refer myſelf to the whole county of Cheſter, where it is in every one's mouth, and has been to theſe forty years. As much as I have of the manuſcript was ſent me by a perſon of ſenſe and veracity, and as little partial to viſions as any body. For my own part, I build nothing on this or any other prophecy; only there is ſomething ſo very odd in the ſtory, and ſo pat in the wording of it, that I cannot help giving it as I found it.

The family of the Cholmondeleys is very ancient in this county, and takes its name from a place ſo called, near Nantwich; there are alſo Cholmton and Cholmondeſton; but the ſeat of that branch of the family, which kept our prophet Nixon, is at Vale-Royal, on the river Weave, in Delamere foreſt. It was formerly an abbey,* founded by Edward I. and came to the

* It is reported, that there is a room in this houſe, the door and windows of which are kept cloſely faſtened, and no one is ever

Cholmondeleys from the famous family of the Holcrofts. When Nixon prophecied, this family was near being extinct, the heir having married Sir Walter St. John's daughter, a lady not esteemed very young, who, notwithstanding, being with child, fell in labour, and continued so for many days: during which time, an eagle sat upon the house-top, and flew away when she was delivered of a son.

A raven is also known to have built in a stone lion's mouth in the steeple of the church of Over, in the forest of Delamere. Not long before the abdication of King James, the wall spoken of fell down, and fell upwards: and in removing the rubbish, were found the bones of a man more than ordinary size. A pond at the same time ran with water that had a reddish tincture, and was never known to have done so before or since.

Headless cross, in the forest, which in the memory of man was several feet high, is now only half a foot from the grounds

In the parish of Budworth, a boy was born, about eighteen years ago, with three thumbs; the youth is still living there; and the miller Peter lives in Noginshire mill, in expectation of fulfilling this prophecy on the person of Perkin: he hath also two heels on one foot, and I find he intends to make use of them in the interest of King George, for he is a bold Briton, and a loyal subject, zealous for the Protestant succession in the illustrious house of Hanover, has a vote for the knights of the shire, and never fails to give it on the right side: in a word, Peter will prate or box for the good cause that Nixon had lifted him in, and if he does not do the business, this must be said of him, that no man will bid fairer for it; which the Lady Egerton was so apprehensive of, that wishing well to another restoration, she often instigated her husband to turn

permitted to enter the same, except the next heir, when he attains his twenty-first year, at which time he goes in alone, and when he returns, it is shut up as before.

him out of the mill; but he looked upoh it as whimſical, and ſo Peter ſtill continues there, in hopes of being as good a knight as Sir Philip his landlord was.

Of this Peter, I have been told, that the Lady Narcliff, of Chelſea, and the Lady St. John, of Batterſea, together with ſeveral other perſons of credit and faſhion, have often been heard to talk, and that they all aſſerted their knowledge of the truth of our prophecy and its accompliſhment, with many particulars that are more extraordinary than any I have yet mentioned.

The noiſe of Nixon's Predictions reaching the ears of King James the Firſt, he would needs ſee this fool, who cried and made ado that he might not go to court, and the reaſon that he gave was, that he ſhould there be ſtarved.—(A very whimſical fancy of his, Courts not being places where people are uſed to ſtarve in, when they once come there, whatever they may have done before.)—The King being informed of Nixon's refuſing to come, ſaid he would take particular care that he ſhould not be ſtarved, and ordered him to be brought up. Nixon cried out, that he was ſent for again; and ſoon after the meſſenger arrived, who brought him up from Cheſhire.

How or whether he prophecied to his Majeſty, no perſon can tell: but he is not the firſt fool that has made a good court prophet.

That Nixon might be well provided for, it was ordered that he ſhould be kept in the kitchen, where he grew ſo troubleſome in licking and picking the meat, that the cooks locked him up in a hole; and the King going on a ſudden from Hampton Court to London, in their hurry they forgot the fool, and he was really ſtarved to death.

There are great many paſſages of this fool-prophet's life and ſayings tranſmitted in tradition from father to ſon in this county palatine; as, that when he lived with a farmer, before he was taken into Mr. Cholmondeley's family, he goaded an ox ſo cruelly that one of the ploughmen threatened to beat him for abuſing his

Maſter's beaſt—Nixon ſaid, "My maſter's beaſt will "not be his three days." A life in an eſtate dropping in that time, the lord of the manor took the ſame ox for an heriot. This account, whimſical and romantic as it is, was told to the Lady Cowper, in the year 1670, by Dr. Patrick, late Biſhop of Ely, then chaplain to Sir Walter St. John; and that lady had the following farther particulars, relating to this prophecy, and the fulfilling of many parts of it, from Mrs. Chute, ſiſter to Mrs. Cholmondeley of Vale-Royal, who affirmed, that a multitude of people gathered together to ſee the eagle before mentioned, and the bird was frightened from her young; that ſhe herſelf was one of them; and the cry among the people was, Nixon's prophecy is fulfilled, and we ſhall have a foreign King. She declared, that ſhe read over the prophecy many times, when her ſiſter was with child of the heir who now enjoys the eſtate. She particularly remembers that King James the Second was plainly pointed at, and that it was foretold that he ſhould endeavour to ſubvert the laws and religion of this kingdom, for which reaſon they would riſe and turn him out; that the eagle of which Nixon prophecied perched in one of the windows all the time her ſiſter was in labour. She ſaid it was the biggeſt bird ſhe ever ſaw; that it was in a deep ſnow; and it perched on the edge of a great bow window, which had a large border on the outſide, and that ſhe and many others opened the window to try to ſcare it away, but it would not ſtir until Mrs. Cholmondeley was delivered; after which it took flight to a great tree over againſt the room her ſiſter lay in, where having ſtaid about three days, it flew away in the night. She affirmed further to the Lady Cowper, that the falling of the garden wall was a thing not to be queſtioned, it being in ſo many peoples' memory. That it was foretold that the heir of Vale-Royal ſhould live to ſee England invaded by foreigners, and that he ſhould fight bravely for his King and Country: That the miller mentioned is now alive, and expects to be

knighted, and is in the very mill that is foretold: That he ſhould kill two invaders who ſhould come in, the one from the Weſt and the other from the North: That he from the North ſhould bring with him of all nations, Swedes, Danes, Germans, and Dutch; and that in the folds of his garments he ſhould bring fire and famine, plague and murder: That many great battles ſhould be fought in England, one upon London-bridge, which ſhould be ſo bloody, that people will ride in London-ſtreets up to their horſes' bellies in blood; that ſeveral other battles ſhould be fought up and down moſt parts of Cheſhire; and that the laſt that ever would be fought in England ſhould be on Delamere foreſt: That the heir of Oulton, whoſe name is E———n, and has married Earl Cholmondeley's ſiſter, ſhould be hanged up at his own gate.

Laſtly, Nixon foretels great glory and proſperity to thoſe who ſtand up in defence of their laws and liberties; and ruin and miſery to thoſe who ſhould bertay them. He ſays, the year before this would happen, bread-corn would be very dear, and that the year following more troubles ſhould begin, which would laſt three years; that the firſt would be moderate, the ſecond bloody, and the third intolerable; that unleſs they were ſhortened no mortal could bear them; and that there were no miſchiefs but what poor England would feel at that time. But that GEORGE the SON of GEORGE* ſhould put an end to all. That afterwards the church ſhould flouriſh, and England be the moſt glorious nation upon earth.

Lady Cowper was not content to take theſe particulars from Mrs. Chute, but ſhe enquired of Sir Thomas Aſton, of the truth of this prophecy, and he atteſted it was in great reputation in Cheſhire, and that the facts were known by every one to have happened as Nixon said they would; adding, that the morning

* The original prophecy says, "Richard the son of Richard."

before the garden wall fell, his neighbour, Mr. Cholmondeley, going to ride out a hunting, ſaid, "Nixon "ſeldom fails, but now I think he will; for he fore-"told that this day "my garden-wall would fall, and "I think it looks as if it would ſtand theſe forty years:" That he had not been gone above a quarter of an hour before the wall ſplit, and fell upwards againſt the riſing of the hill, which, as Nixon would have it, was the preſage of a flouriſhing church.

As to the removal of Peckforton mill, it was done by Sir John Crew, the mill having loſt its trade there, for which he ordered it to be ſet upon Ludditon hill: and being aſked if he did it to fulfil the prophecy, he declared he never thought of it. I myſelf have enquired of a perſon who knows Mr. Cholmondeley's pond as well as Roſamond's in St. James's Park, and he aſſured me, the falling of the wall, and the pond running blood, (as they call it,) are facts which, in Cheſhire, any one would be reckoned mad for making the leaſt queſtion of them. As there are ſeveral particulars in this prophecy which remain unfulfilled; ſo when they come to paſs, ſome other circumſtances may be added, which are not convenient to be told until accompliſhed.

If I had a mind to look into the antiquities of this county, I might find that prodigies and prophecies are no unuſual things there. Camden tells us, that at Brereton; not many miles from Vale-Royal, which gave name to a famous, ancient, numerous, and knightly family, there is a thing as ſtrange as the perching of the eagle, or the falling of the wall, which he ſays was atteſted to him by many perſons, and was commonly believed; that before any heir of this family dies, there are ſeen, in a lake adjoining, the bodies of trees ſwimming upon the water for ſeveral days together. He likewiſe adds, that near the abbey of St. Maurice, in Burgundy, there is a fiſhpond, in which a number of fiſh are put, equal to the number of monks of that place; and if any one of them happens to be

ſick, there is a fiſh ſeen floating on the ſurface of the water; and in caſe the fit of ſickneſs proves fatal to the monk, the fiſh foretels it by its death ſome days before. This the learned Camden relates in his deſcription of Cheſhire, and the opinion of the trees ſwimming in the lake near Brereton, prevails all about the county to the preſent day, only with this difference, that ſome ſay it is one log only that ſwims, and ſome ſay many.

Lancaſhire, which is not far off, has been famous for witches, and I am afraid Cheſhire is a little infected by its neighbourhood. Thoſe that will not believe our prophecy may leave it alone; but if hope is a good help to faith, I ſhall not be long among the incredulous.

The Editor preſents his Readers with a Copy of a printed Paper, which ſeveral aged Perſons, reſiding near the Foreſt, have vouched for the Authenticity of it.

A true and particular Account of a ſtrange and ſurpriſing VISION, that was ſeen on the Foreſt of Delamere, in Cheſhire, on the 4th of laſt Month.

AS NIXON, in the reign of King James the Firſt, propheſied of many ſtrange and wonderful things that ſhould come to paſs, ſuch as an heir being born to Lord Cholmondeley's family, which at that time there was little reaſon to expect, but which came to paſs; and that the eldeſt ſon, of young Lord Cholmondeley, ſhould have the misfortune to break his neck, by riding a hunting, which accident really did happen; and ſeveral other things already come to paſs, according to the ſaid propheey: but, in particular, of a wonderful battle or engagement that ſhould be fought on the

Foreſt of Delamere; and as it is now fully expected that we ſhall have an invaſion from our natural and inveterate enemies, the French, it is alſo thought it will be in the North of England, and in all probability the ſaid Foreſt of Delamere my be the place of action or engagement: and what ſtrengthens the belief more is, the viſion that was ſeen on the ſaid Foreſt on the 4th, as follows:

As two ancient perſons were walking over the ſaid Foreſt, to their great ſurpriſe, they saw, at a diſtance before them, an army riſe out of the ground, drawn up, with their proper officers, aud their commanders in front of them, and whilſt they were looking at, and ruminating upon ſo ſtrange a ſight, behold, to their moſt wonderful ſurpriſe and amazement, there aroſe alſo another army out of the ground, at a ſmall diſtance from the firſt, and farther in the foreſt, which army was headed or commanded by a man in royal apparel, who, after having drawn up his army, marched to meet and engage the firſt; upon which a moſt bloody battle enſued with fire arms, and many appeared to be killed on both ſides; but, being ſo near each other they laid down or grounded their arms, and took to their ſwords, with which great ſlaughter was made; and then came to ſuch cloſe quarrels, that they put up their ſwords and fought with their hands; all of which engagements more than three quarters of an hour, during which time the ſaid two ancient people were ſpectators; and, at laſt, the remains of the army that firſt appeared retreated towards the ſea, and vanquiſhed directly out of their ſight; whilſt the other army, which was commanded by the man in royal apparel, marched victorious out of the field, as far as it was poſſible to ſee them. Theſe ancient people having ſpoke of the above viſion, it came to the ears of ſeveral gentlemen, who ſent for and examined them concerning the truth of it, which they were ready to make oath for their ſatisfaction.

On the 6th of the ſame month, as ſeven men were

going to Chester, over the said Forest, about the middle of it, they saw, to their great astonishment, a vision, much resembling that which was seen on the 4th, as above described; only with this addition, that the victorious army had many slain, to all appearance, yet they resumed life again, and joined their own army; all which is looked upon as a good omen, that if in case England is invaded by her enemies, though the nation be seemingly dead, and in great division, yet, on the approach of the enemy, they will all, in one general heart, and one mind, exert themselves to repel our most inveterate enemies.

As Nixon's Prophecies are by some persons thought fables, yet, by what has come to pass, it is now thought, and very plainly appears, that most of them have or will prove true; for which reason, we have all occasion not only to exert our utmost might, to repel by force our enemies, but to return from our abandoned and wicked course of life, and make our continual prayers to God for protection and safety.

A COPY OF A

Collection of Prophecies,

Delivered to the Abbot of Beverley,

BY MOTHER URSELA SHIPTON;

Which hath been preserved in Manuscript in a noble Family these many Years, and lately discovered among other curious and valuable Papers.

The Prophecies are as follow:

ABOUT the Time that one shall be
Joined unto two times three,
And four times ten with four times two,*
Amongst us shall be great ado.
An eagle's head that time shall fall
And scatter sore his yonng ones all.
Then shall a cypher swell full great,
His name a hundred takes the seat,
And shall do mighty things before
He is removed off the shore;
But ten times five with two and six,†
Him in another world shall fix.
And quickly after you shall spy
The eagle back again to fly.
He shall bedeck himself again
With feathers on his father's train,
'Till heavy times shall make men say,
Full oft, Alack! and, Well-a-day!
And after all a cloud shall come,
And almost darken quite the sun,
And in that time actions shall be
Chiefly driven on by three;
The cross, the surplice, and the crown,
Strive who shall put each other down;
Great treachery and bloodshed then
Shall sweep away great store of men;

* 1648. † 1658.

The Lion and blue flowers shall seek
Quite to destroy the heretic sheep.
And when the cow shall ride the bull,
Then motly priest beware thy skull.
For a sweet pious prince make room,
And for the kirk prepare a broom.
Alecto next shall seize the crown,
And streams of blood run Smithfield down.
A Maiden Queen full many a year,
Shall England's warlike sceptre bear.
The western monarch's wooden horses
Shall be destroy'd by a Drake's forces.
The northern lion, over Tweed,
The Maiden Queen shall next succeed.
And join in one two mighty states,
And then shall Janus shut his gates.
Now England soon is hard bested,
Before the mitre's head be rid.
False Ireland contrives our woe,
But zealous Scotland doth not so.
Rough Mars shall rage as he were wood,
And earth shall darkened be with blood.
Then will be sacrificed, C.
And not a King in England be.
But death shall snatch the wolf away,
Confusion shall give up its sway;
And fate to England shall restore
A king to reign as heretofore.
Triumphant death rides London thro';
And men on tops of houses go.
J. R. shall into saddle ſlide,
And furiously to Rome shall ride.
The Pope shall have a fatal fall,
And never more distress Whitehall.
A Queen shall knit both North and South,
And take away the 'Luce's tooth.
A Lion-Duce shall after reign.
And of the Whiskers clear the main;
But he that chanceth to survive,
Shall see Old England mainly thrive.
England's wonder, which ne'er hath been,
Three Queens in England shall be seen.

Two Dukes shall for the crown contend,
And bring the M ——— y to end.
Bishops shall fall into contempt and scorn,
And gospel-anglers shall the kirk adorn.
If any ask, how these things come to pass;
The fox shall ride the goose, the goose the ass.

The greatest part of what has been hitherto published under the title of Mother Shipton's Prophecies, plainly appears to be no more than imperfect bits and scraps of this collection, carried away, perhaps, in the memory of such as might sometime have the opportunity of seeing it in the noble family where it was lodged. The whole seems entirely to point at the great events that have, and yet may happen to both church and state, in this and the neighbouring nations. The first thirty verses seem to relate to the disasters that should befall a great part of Europe, during the time of King Henry VIII. for the twenty-ninth and thirtieth verses terminate in his reign, and are the last wherein the reign can be understood to be hinted at.

EXPLANATIONS OF THE PROPHECIES.

V. 29. And when the Cow shall ride the Bull.

This seems to have been fulfilled when Henry VIII. married Lady Anna Bullen; for he, as Duke of Richmond, placed the cow in his arms, and the crest of her family was a black bull's head.

V. 30. Then motley priest beware thy skull.

Presently after the King's marriage, the seizure of abbey lands, &c. and the dissolution of monastries ensued, whereby the skull, or head-piece of the priesthood (i. e. gain) was miserably broke.

V. 31. For a sweet pious prince make room.

By this, doubtless, is meant King Edward VI, a part of whose character is thus given by the learned Dean Echard, in his History of England:

"He was truly just and merciful in his disposition, and took special care of the petitions that were given him by the poor and oppressed; but his zeal for religion crowned all the rest, which did not proceed from angry heat, but from a real tenderness of conscience, founded on the love of God, and his fellow creatures."

V. 32. And for the kirk * prepare a broom.

This alludes to the beginning of the Reformation, when many superstitions were swept out of the church.

V. 33. Alecto next shall seize the crown.

Alecto was one of the fabulous furies of the heathen, whose employment was to kindle war, and distress mankind. She is here placed for Queen Mary I. in whose reign, as it is alluded to in the thirty-fourth verse, the blood of the Protestant martyrs was plentifully shed in Smithfield.

Verse 35 and 36.

A Maiden Queen, full many a year,
Shall England's warlike sceptre bear.

By these are meant Queen Elizabeth, who reigned 44 years, 4 months, and 6 days; upon whom Andrew Marvel has left the following verses:

"The other day fam'd Spencer I did bring
In lofty notes Tudor's bless'd race to sing;
How Spain's proud pow'rs her virgin arms controll'd,
And golden days in peaceful order roll'd;
How, like ripe fruit, she dropp'd from off her throne,
Full of grey hairs, good deeds, and great renown."

Verse 37 and 38.

The Western Monarch's wooden horses
Shall be destroyed by a Drake's forces.

The Western Monarch is supposed to mean the King of Spain, whose country lies on the west side of the continent; and his wooden horses his fleet of ships, or armada, vanquished by Admiral Drake, and the rest of the Queen's forces, in the year 1588.

* A North country word for church.

Verse 39 and 40.

The Northern Lion, over Tweed,
The Maiden Queen shall next succeed.

The Northern Lion; (i. e.) King James I. born in Scotland, called a Lion, not in consideration of any great heroisms he should perform, but because the Lion is the principal figure in the British arms; whence the King, as the principal person in the realm, metaphorically takes the name.

Verse 41 and 42.

And join, in one, two mighty states,
And then shall Janus shut his gates.

The first bears an allusion to the uniting of the two crowns of England and Scotland in one, in the person of King James. And the second, points out the peaceful reign of that monarch, by shutting the gates of Janus, who was one of the heathen gods, and the gates of whose temple were never shut but in time of peace.

Verse 43 and 44 seem to hint at some great calamities that should befal this nation before the deposition of episcopacy, in the reign of the republican anarchy, under O. Cromwell.

Verse 45 and 46.

False Ireland contrives our woe,
But zealous Scotland doth not so.

Doubtless these intended the execrable massacre in Ireland, in the reign of King Charles I. and the loyalty of the Scotch in not joining the Irish rebels, but suffering with the English.

Verse 47, 48, 49, and 50.

Rough Mars shall rage as he were wood,*
And earth shall dark'ned be with blood;
Then will be sacrificed, C.
And not a king in England be.

This was verified in the time of the grand rebellion, and unnatural civil war, when the nation was torn and pillaged, the laws broke, the constitution overturned, and the King and monarchy slain together.

* Mad

Verse 51, 52, 53, and 54.

But death shall snatch the wolf away;
Confusion ſhall give up the sway;
And fate to England shall restore
A King, to reign as heretofore.

If we guess aright, the first of these verses alludes to the death of O. Cromwell; and the other three to the restoration of King Charles II.

Verse 55 and 56.

Triumphant death rides London thro',
And men on tops of houses go.

The first, in all appearance, points out the terrible Plague that raged in London, 1665. The second circumstantially alludes to the dreadful fire in the year following: signifying that people should be obliged to run from one house to another, over the tops of the houses, to save themselves, and their effects.

V. 57. J. R. shall into a saddle slide.

J. R. (i. e.) James Rex, or King James II. who ascended the throne upon the death of King Charles II.

V. 58. And furiously to Rome shall ride.

Scarce was he settled upon the throne, before he went to mass publicly; and, by pursuing imprudent and illegal measures, was the cause of the verification of,

Verse 59 and 60.

The Pope shall have a fatal fall,
And never more distress Whitehall.

For he was abdicated for his mis-government; and his son-in-law King William and Queen Mary II. were placed upon the throne.

V. 61. A Queen shall knit both North and South.

This seems to refer to the union of England and Scotland, in the reign of Queen Anne.

V. 62, And take away the 'Luce's tooth.

This likewise seems to relate to her extraordinary victories over Louis XIV. King of France, who we judge is intended here by the 'luce, which, by way of ellision might here be put for flower-de-luce, the arms of that monarchy.

Verse 63 and 64.

A Lion-duce shall after reign,
And of the Whiskers clear the main.

What is meant by the Lion-duce may be matter of amusement to the curious; but as the word duce sometimes represents the number two, so two in this ambiguous kind of phrase may intend the similar word second, and our present gracious sovereign * being the second lion (or English monarch) of his name, it is far from being unlikely that he may be the prince here pointed out, who shall clear the main of the Whiskers, which is a northern term for Mustachioes, and doubtless alludes here to the Spanish, whose fashion it has been, for many centuries past, to wear them. But as this appears to relate to the present age, we leave it to the skilful and ingenious; as we likewise do the following verses, which seem to predict something further below than the reach of the present age,

Whether the prophecy of the lily be Mother Shipton's or no we cannot certainly determine, but as it has been attributed to her, and is writ in a peculiar sublimity of sense and style, we think it would be very improper to omit it. It runs as follows:

"The Lily shall remain in a merry world; and he shall be moved against the seed of the lion; and he shall stand on one side of the country with a number of ships. Then shall come the son of man, having a fierce beast in his arms, whose kingdom is the land of the moon, which is dreaded throughout the whole world. With a number of people shall he pass many waters, and shall come to the land of the lion, looking for help of the beast of his country: and an eagle shall come out of the east, spread with the beams of the son of man, and shall destroy castles of the Thames. and there shall be battles among many kingdoms. That year shall be the bloody field, and Lily, F. K. shall lose his crown, and therewith shall be crowned the son of man, K. W. and the fourth year shall be many battles for the faith, and the son of man, with the eagles, shall be preferred. And there shall be an universal peace over the whole world, and there shall be plenty of fruits, and then shall he go to the land of the cross."

* King George the Second.

C[illegible]n, Printer, Rupert-Street, Haymarket.

